



## Teacher Guide



## Find Your Park: Denali Every Kid in a Park

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## **Lesson Overview**

The National Park Service is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016! To celebrate, we are inviting all fourth graders to visit federal lands and waterways for free for a whole year. In this program, students will learn about what makes Denali National Park and Preserve so special and unique. We hope to inspire students to explore National Parks and other public lands close to home, or all the way across the United States!

## **Lesson Objectives**

*Students will be able to:*

1. Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the National Park Service
2. Explain general information about the history, wildlife, geology, seasons, and sled dogs of Denali National Park and Preserve
3. Become inspired to explore other National Parks and public lands

## **Common Core Standards**

- **SL.4.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 4 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
  - **SL.4.1.A** Come to discussions prepared having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.
  - **SL.4.1.B** Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.
  - **SL.4.1.C** Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.
  - **SL.4.1.D** Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.
- **SL.4.2** Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
- **SL.4.3** Identify the reasons and evidence a speaker provides to support particular points.
- **SL.4.4** Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.
- **SL.4.5** Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

## **Suggested Lesson Progression:**

Before Distance Learning Program

- 15-30 minutes: computer set up, pre-activity (student reading), and questions.

During Distance Learning Program

- 30-60 minutes: Zoom/Skype session

After Distance Learning Program

- 30-60 minutes: post-activity

## **Background Information**

Please read the Student Reading for background information on Denali. The reading is broken down into sections regarding the wildlife, sled dogs, geology, vegetation, and history of Denali National Park and Preserve. A fact sheet and vocabulary are also included.

### **Every Kid in a Park**

Lands and waterways that are protected by our government represent diverse environments and are used in many different ways. Federal lands and waters include forests, mountains, seashores, lakes, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, historic buildings, monuments, deserts, and more. Federal lands and waters have many purposes. They help provide clean air, water, food, and habitats for wildlife; they offer scenery, recreation, and jobs for people; and they are places for people to learn about the environment, history, and culture.

Public lands protect important ecosystems and historic places, and they are also places to have fun. Thousands of people visit these incredible places every year to hike, swim, bike, ride horses, and engage in outdoor activities.

Everyone is welcome to visit these areas. One way that the government protects these places for all visitors is by setting rules that keep the landscapes, water bodies, wildlife, and historical areas safe. For example, in wildlife sanctuaries, hunting is not allowed or is carefully controlled. Historical areas are protected from graffiti and other forms of destruction. People are not permitted to build on or dig into protected natural landscapes.

### **Denali National Park and Preserve**

This park was originally established as Mt. McKinley National Park in 1917 to protect wildlife and its habitat. At that time there were many people living and hunting in this area, and they needed meat for themselves and their dog teams. The easiest source of meat was hunting Dall sheep.

Charles Sheldon, a hunter and naturalist, came to the Denali area in 1906 to study Dall sheep. Seeing the need to protect this area and the Dall sheep from commercial hunting Sheldon lobbied Congress to set the area aside as a national park. Congress agreed with Sheldon and Mt. McKinley National Park was created in 1917. In 1980, through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the park's name was changed, and its acreage tripled. Denali National Park and Preserve covers more than 6 million acres, or an area about the size of New Hampshire!

## **Before Distance Learning Program**

**Time:** 15-30 minutes

### **Materials**

#### **For each student**

- Pre-Activity - Student Reading (Optional)

#### **For the class**

- Computer setup for viewing Zoom/Skype conference session

### **Getting Ready**

1. **Check computer setup.** This is a good time to make sure your computer setup is functioning optimally. You also want to make sure that the Zoom/Skype application is functional. Check with a Denali Education Staff member if you have any questions and to perform a pre-conference connection.
2. **Student reading.** Students are asked to complete a reading about Denali National Park and Preserve. Decide whether you want them to read this as homework, in class individually, or together as a class. You might choose to assign particular sections, rather than the whole document, depending on what subjects you are focusing on.
3. **Submit class questions.** Have students collectively identify three questions that they want to ask the ranger at the end of the Zoom/Skype session. Please submit these questions to the Education Team at [DENA\\_education@NPS.gov](mailto:DENA_education@NPS.gov) at least 24 hours in advance of the Zoom/Skype session.

## **During the Distance Learning Program**

**Time:** 30-60 minutes

### **Getting Ready**

1. **Student volunteers.** Students will interact with a ranger during the program. Keep this in mind and be ready to identify the selected students.
2. **Establish Zoom/Skype connection.** Make sure your Zoom/Skype connection is up and running before beginning the session with the education staff.

### **Procedure**

1. **Orient your students.** Before connecting via Zoom or signing on to Skype with the Denali rangers, show students the set-up and go over any standards of behavior that students should follow during the session. Remind them that the education staff may not be able to see everyone in the classroom, so they should look to you as an intermediary, if necessary, when they want to make a comment or ask a question.

2. **Connect with Denali.** At the designated time, use Zoom/Skype to connect with the education staff. The program may last 30-60 minutes, depending on student input and questions.
3. **Let the communication begin!** Please be available to the education staff during the entire length of the program. At the end of the program be ready to help facilitate questions.
4. **After the program.** Take some time after the program for students to discuss and provide feedback about their experience. Tell them that if they have further questions for the education staff, they can contact us at [DENA\\_education@nps.gov](mailto:DENA_education@nps.gov)

## **After the Distance Learning Program**

**Time:** 40-80 minutes

### ***Procedure***

- 1) **Visit** <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/get-your-pass/> and click on the Start button for Educators.
- 2) **Download** one of the activity guides.
- 3) **Complete** one of the activities with your class.
- 4) **Print** vouchers for the students.

### **Extensions**

- **Develop a brochure:** Develop a brochure for Denali National Park and Preserve or a park near you!
- **Draw or Write/Reflection:** Students can compare and contrast the different types of activities that visitors can participate in while visiting Denali vs. the federal land unit or waterway nearest their school.

## **Additional Information about Every Kid in a Park**

For additional information on the Every Kid in a Park, please visit [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov).